Signing Up for CWOP

So you've got a weather station set-up in a good location, you have either an internet appliance or a software package for uploading weather data – now, how do you get it to the National Weather Service? The first step is signing up for CWOP, the Citizen Weather Observing Program!

1.) Determine Station Location

You will need to gather some information about your station location first. You'll need to know your station's **Latitude** and **Longitude**, and the base **elevation** at the site (the ground elevation, not to be confused with the height of the sensor array).

If you have a handheld GPS device, use it to determine your Latitude and Longitude. Elevation from most GPS devices is not very accurate.

A helpful website for finding your location data is ***www.geoplaner.com***

2.) Start by typing in your Address Here, then click "ok."

Example:
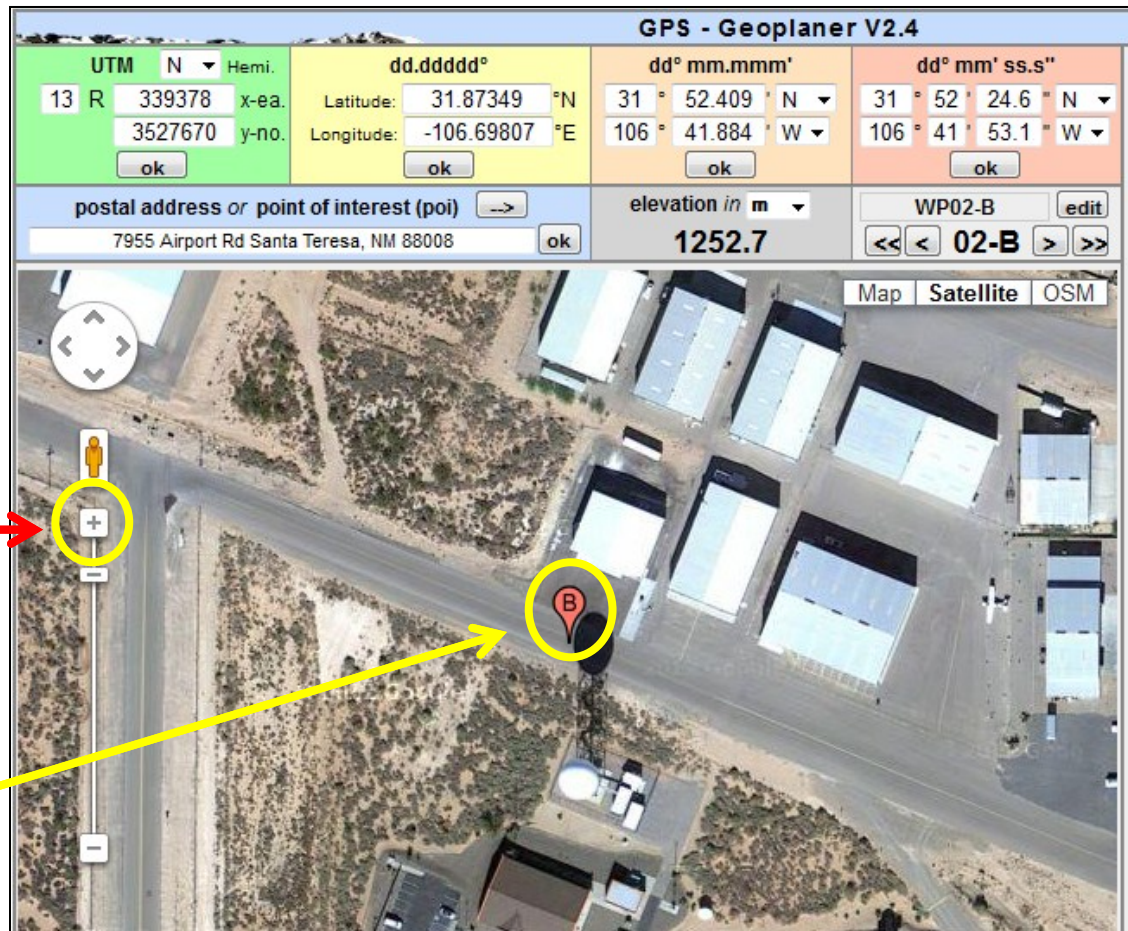7955 Airport Rd Santa Teresa, NM 88008

If you already know your Lat/Lon and Elevation, skip to Step 6.
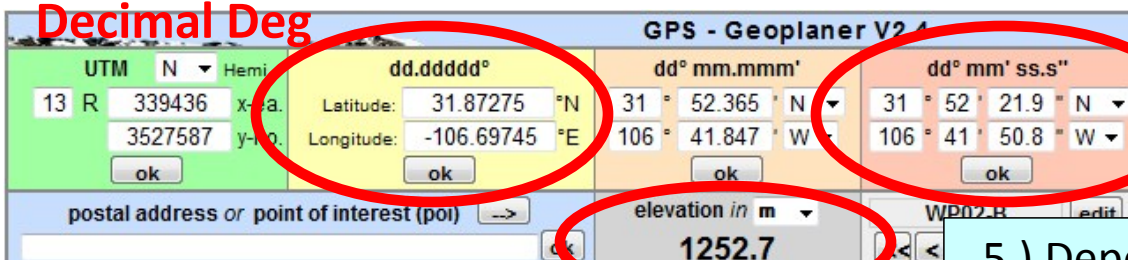
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3.) Next, ZOOM in to your location by clicking the '+' sign multiple times. Get waaaaaay in close!

4.) Click and drag the red marker to further refine the location of your station.

GPS - Geoplaner V2.4

UTM N ▾ Hemi.	dd.ddddd°	dd° mm.mmm'	dd° mm' ss.s"
13 R 339378 x-ea.	Latitude: 31.87349 °N	31 ° 52.409 ' N ▾	31 ° 52 ' 24.6 " N ▾
3527670 y-no.	Longitude: -106.69807 °E	106 ° 41.884 ' W ▾	106 ° 41 ' 53.1 " W ▾
ok	ok	ok	ok

postal address *or* point of interest (poi) →
7955 Airport Rd Santa Teresa, NM 88008   ok

elevation *in* m ▾   **1252.7**

WP02-B   edit
<< < **02-B** > >>

Map | Satellite | OSM

Decimal Deg

Deg/Min/Sec

Elevation

GPS - Geoplaner V2.4

UTM N ▾ Hemi	dd.ddddd°	dd° mm.mmm'	dd° mm' ss.s"
13 R 339436 x-ea.	Latitude: 31.87275 °N	31 ° 52.365 ' N ▾	31 ° 52 ' 21.9 " N ▾
3527587 y-no.	Longitude: -106.69745 °E	106 ° 41.847 ' W ▾	106 ° 41 ' 50.8 " W ▾
ok	ok	ok	ok

postal address *or* point of interest (poi) →
    ok

elevation *in* m ▾   **1252.7**

WP02-B   edit
< <

Map

5.) Depending on the software you're using to upload to CWOP, you will need your station's Latitude and Longitude location in either Decimal Degrees or Deg/Min/Sec, and your elevation in metres or feet. It is best to make a note of **both** formats.

In this example, the relevant information is:
Lat/Lon: 31.87275, -106.69745 *or* 31°52'22", -106°41'51"
Elev: 1252.7 metres / 4110 feet

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6.) Get a CWOP Station ID by filling out the form at:
   http://www.findu.com/citizenweather/cw_form.html

The CWOP website is a little "old-fashioned" and unpolished, and it contains far more information than the average user needs. Don't worry about the parts of the form mentioning "Packet Checking" and "MADIS tech support."

CITIZEN WEATHER PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

To obtain a DW number fill in the form below. You will receive an e-mail reply with y...

If you have questions, please contact your software provider, or send email to Rand... data packets are at **Packet Checking**.

If you also send your weather data to another internet site, please contact MADIS t... possibility of duplicate data.

Thank you for participating in the Citizen Weather Program!

First name	John
Last name	Doe
email	John.Doe@email.com
Nearby town	Santa Teresa
State (country if outside US)	NM
Zip Code (if US)	88008
Elevation	1252.7 (meters above sea level)

[Send my DW number!]

> Enter your contact information, town nearest to your station, state, and ZIP code, and elevation in metres here.
> Then click "Send my DW number"

> **PLEASE!**
> Use a valid email address. You will rarely be contacted, and will receive no SPAM.

If your station is in Mexico, enter your state abbreviation and "MX" and leave the ZIP Code field blank. (example: for Chihuahua, enter State as "CHH MX")

7.) Configure your Internet Device or uploading Software.

Here's where you will enter your CWOP Station ID (the 'DW number') as well as your station's Latitude and Longitude. (Don't forget the "-" sign on the Longitude!)

The process will vary depending on the software or device you're using.

There is a partial listing of software and device-specific setup instructions available online at **http://www.weather.gov/epz/?n=cwopEPZ**

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8.) Check for weather data!

- Go to the following web address, using your CWOP Station ID at the end:
  http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wx.cgi?call=YOUR_CWOP_ID_HERE

- For example, if your Station ID was DW8512, you would enter:
  http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wx.cgi?call=DW8512

Depending on your upload frequency (5 min is preferred), you should see data start to appear in 5-15 minutes.

The timestamp used here is in UTC, and the format is YYYYMMDDHHmmss (Year-Month-Day-Hour-Minutes-Seconds)

DW8512 Weather Reports

Display with metric or nautical units.

time (UTC)	temp F	wind direction	speed MPH	gust MPH	rain 1hr in	rain 24hr in	rain mn in	humidity %	barometer mb
20120304224720	68	46	2.0	8.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	10	1020.4
20120304224220	67	0	2.0	7.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	10	1020.5
20120304223720	67	220	2.0	7.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	9	1020.5
20120304223219	67	81	3.0	9.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	10	1020.5
20120304222719	68	355	4.0	9.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	9	1020.5
20120304222220	68	325	4.0	9.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	9	1020.6
20120304221720	69	325	2.0	6.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	9	1020.7
20120304221220	68	210	1.0	6.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	10	1020.7
20120304220720	68	128	2.0	6.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	10	1020.7

9.) Let us know you're online!

• You should receive an email from CWOP asking you to check your station location and make sure your data is flowing.

• **If you are in Southern New Mexico or West Texas**, you may send an email to mike.hardiman@noaa.gov. We'll make sure everything looks good with your data, and ensure it is added to various data feeds.

• Otherwise, respond to the email from CWOP.

• After being added to the data feed, within a week your station's data should start showing up on web sites such as MesoWest.